

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 13 are currently pending in the application. By way of this amendment, once entered, claim 14 will also be pending.

In an election requirement for lack of unity of invention dated December 14, 2006, the Examiner required an election of the claims under PCT Rule 13.1 as follows:

- 1) The Examiner requested election of one of the embodiments among claims 1 to 3.
- 2) The Examiner requested election of one of the blend combinations of claim 5, or an ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene as in claim 6.

With traverse, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the subject matter of claim 1, and the blend combination of the three polyethylenes A, B, and C in claim 5.

Traversal of Election Requirement Due To Alleged Lack of Unity of Invention

In a telephone conference with the Examiner on December 22, 2006, Applicants' representative requested clarification of the restriction requirement. The Examiner explained that claims 1 to 3 are allegedly directed to distinct species. However, each of claims 1 to 3 is also allegedly generic to the species combinations in claim 5 and the species in claim 6, and the Examiner requested election of one of these species.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Although the Examiner contends that the subject matter of each of claims 1 to 3 does not relate to a single inventive concept, the Examiner has not provided any reasons for this conclusion. The Examiner asserts that each claim has patentably distinct features. However, the Examiner has not listed such features, nor provided any reasons why the features are considered to be patentably distinct. Under MPEP § 1893.03(d), the examiner must:

(1) list the different groups of claims; and
(2) explain why each group lacks unity with the other groups (i.e., why there is no single general inventive concept) *specifically describing the unique special technical feature in each group.*

The Examiner has not described the unique special technical feature in each group. Accordingly, the Examiner's request to elect one of claims 1 to 3 is not supported and therefore improper.

Applicants request withdrawal of the election request.

Claim Amendments

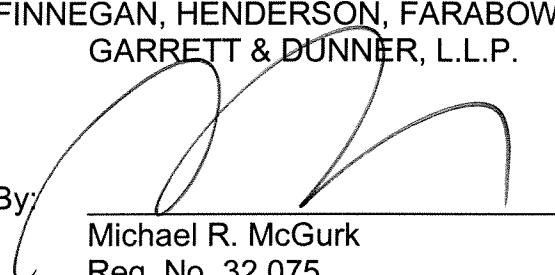
Applicants request addition of new claim 14, which depends from claim 1, the provisionally elected claim. Applicants submit that support for new claim 14 can be found in the specification, for example, starting at page 13, line 7 to page 14, line 8.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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